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KANTOKU
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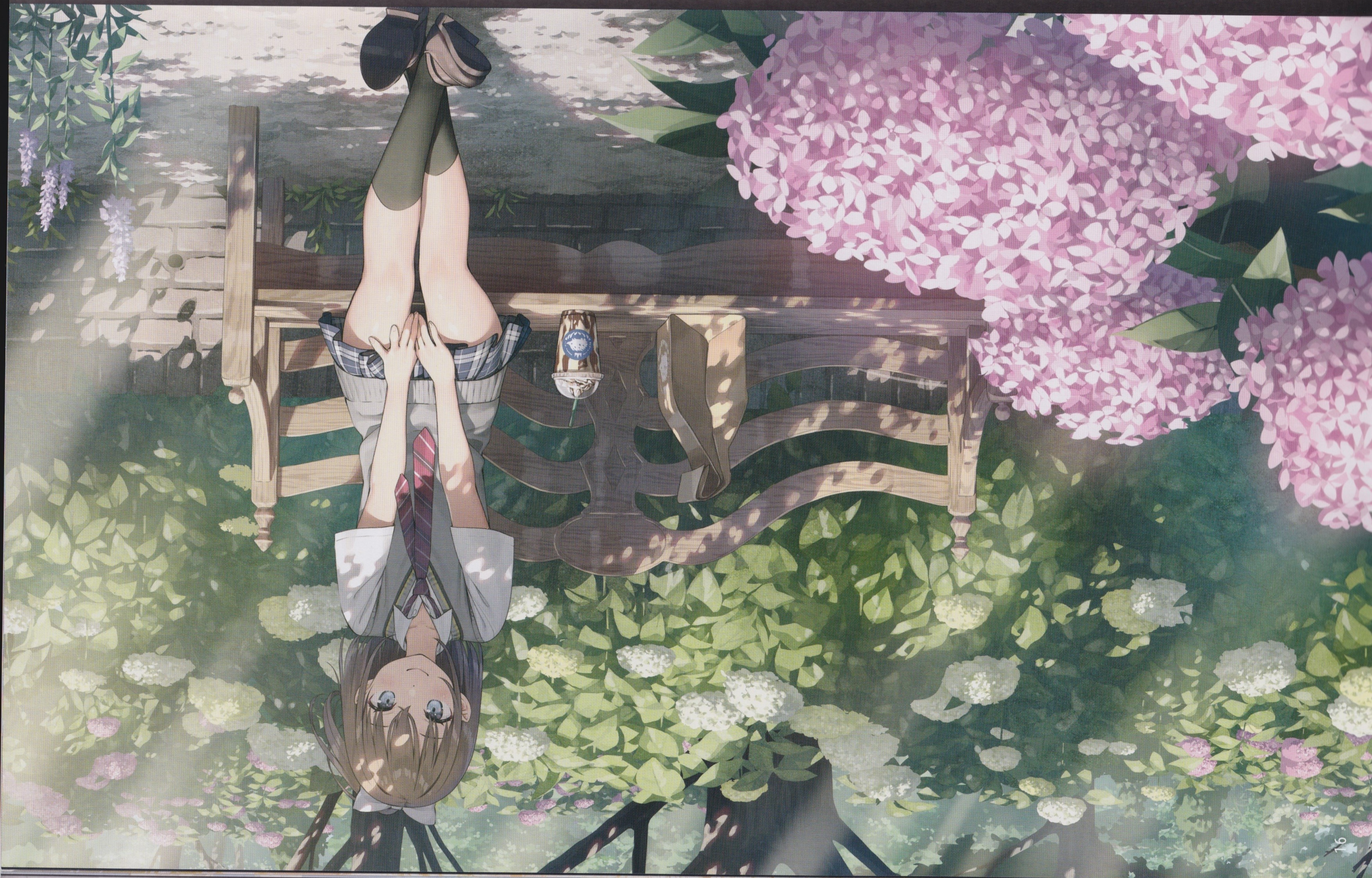

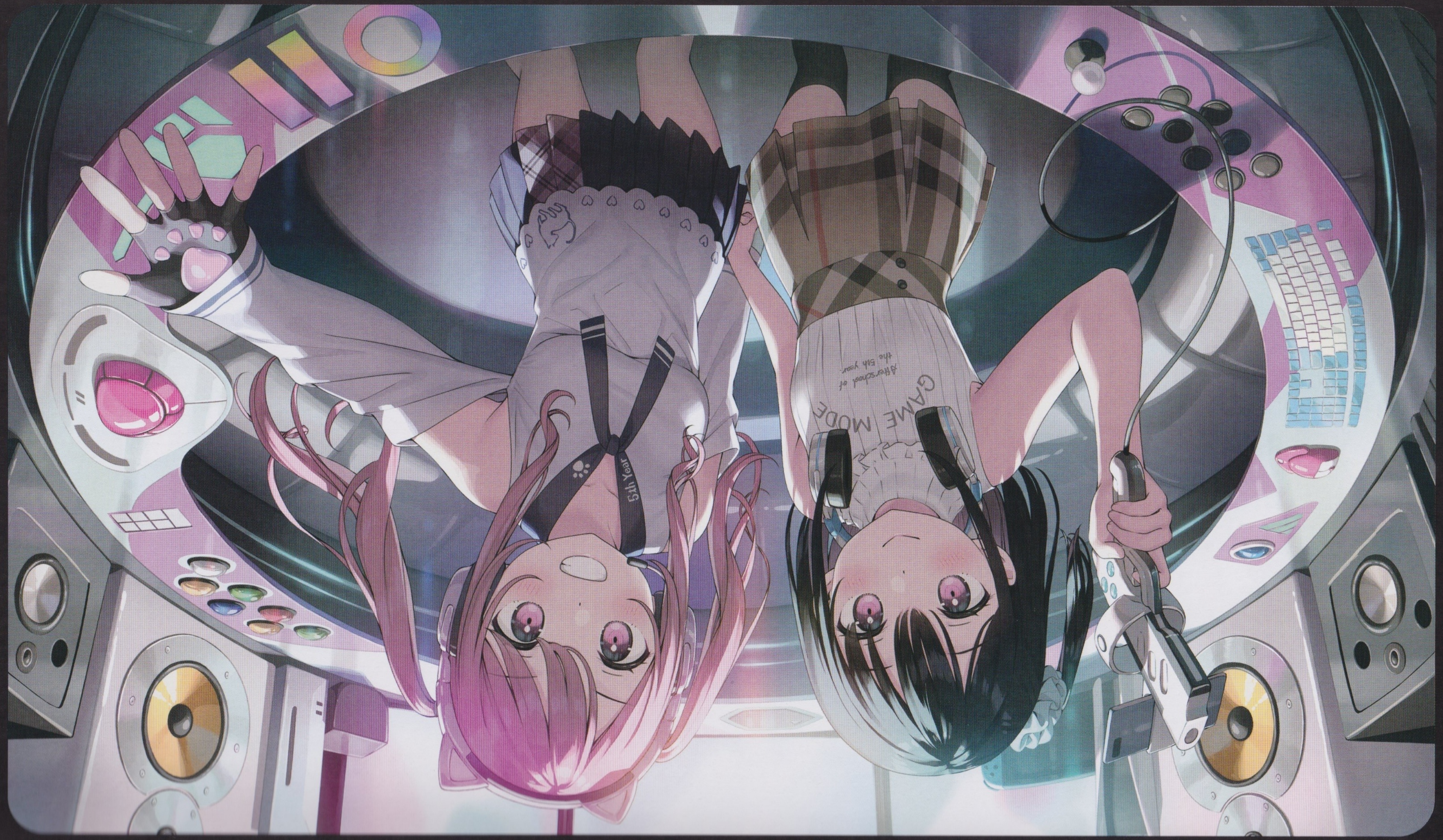
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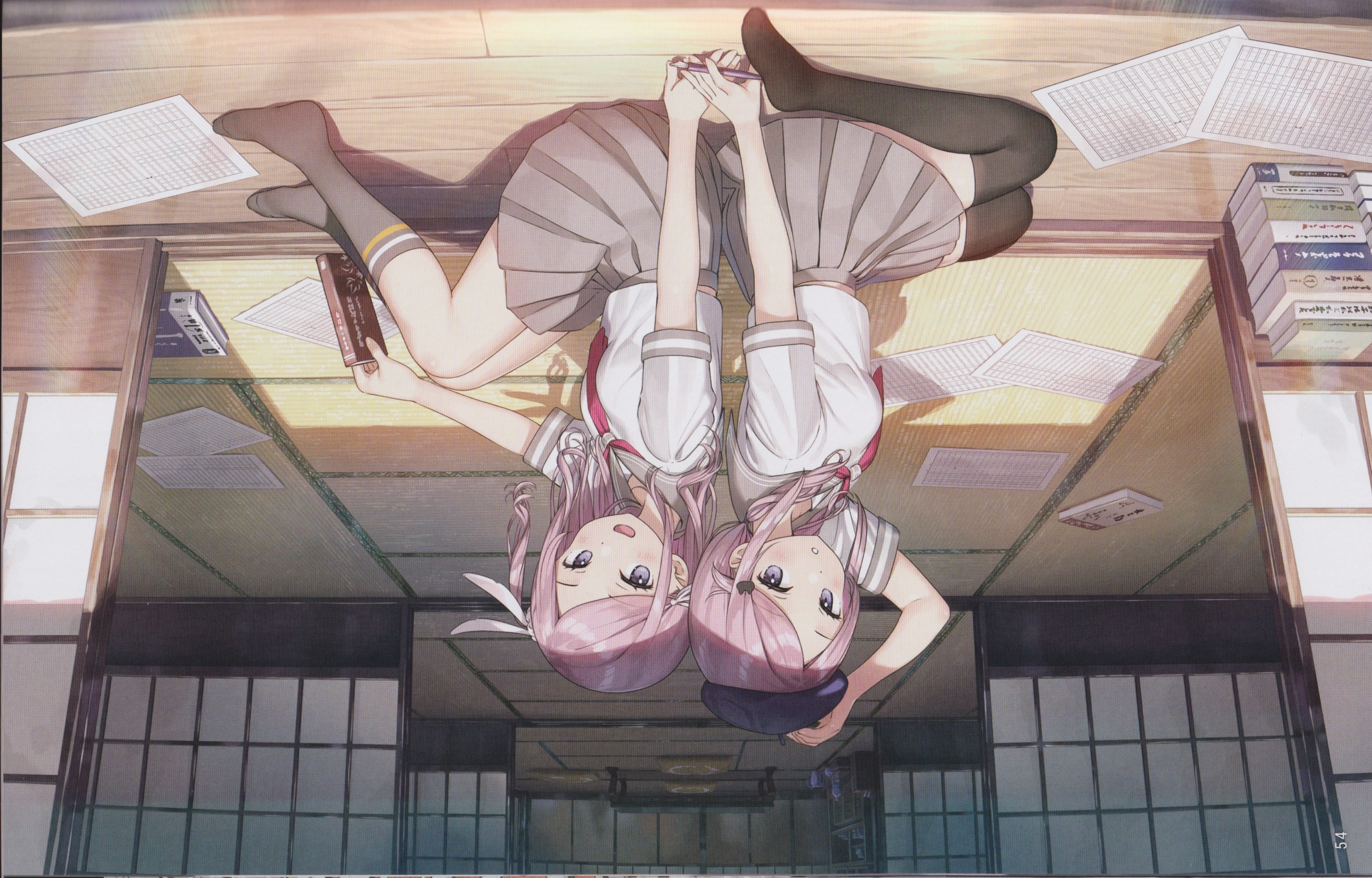

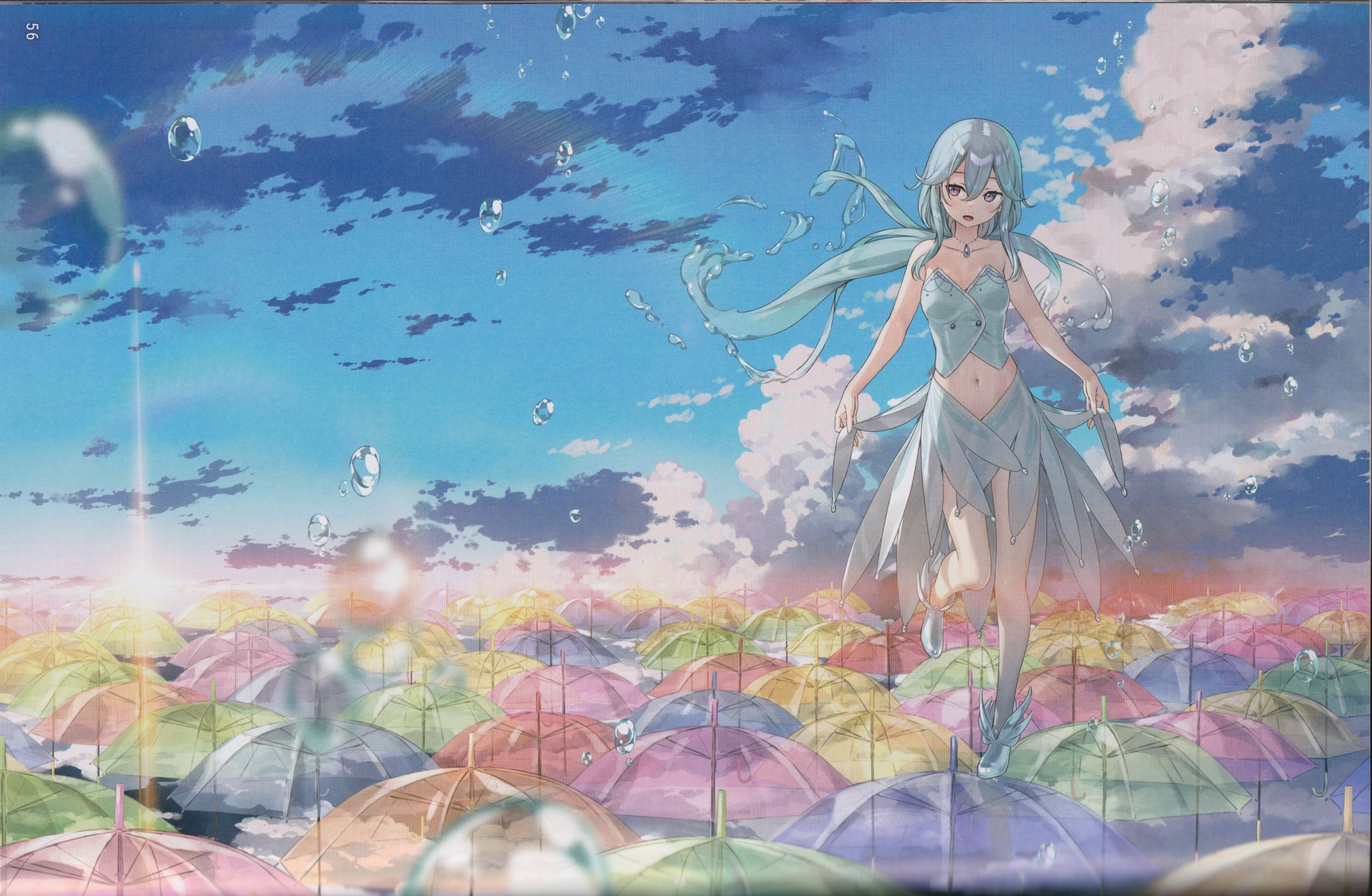

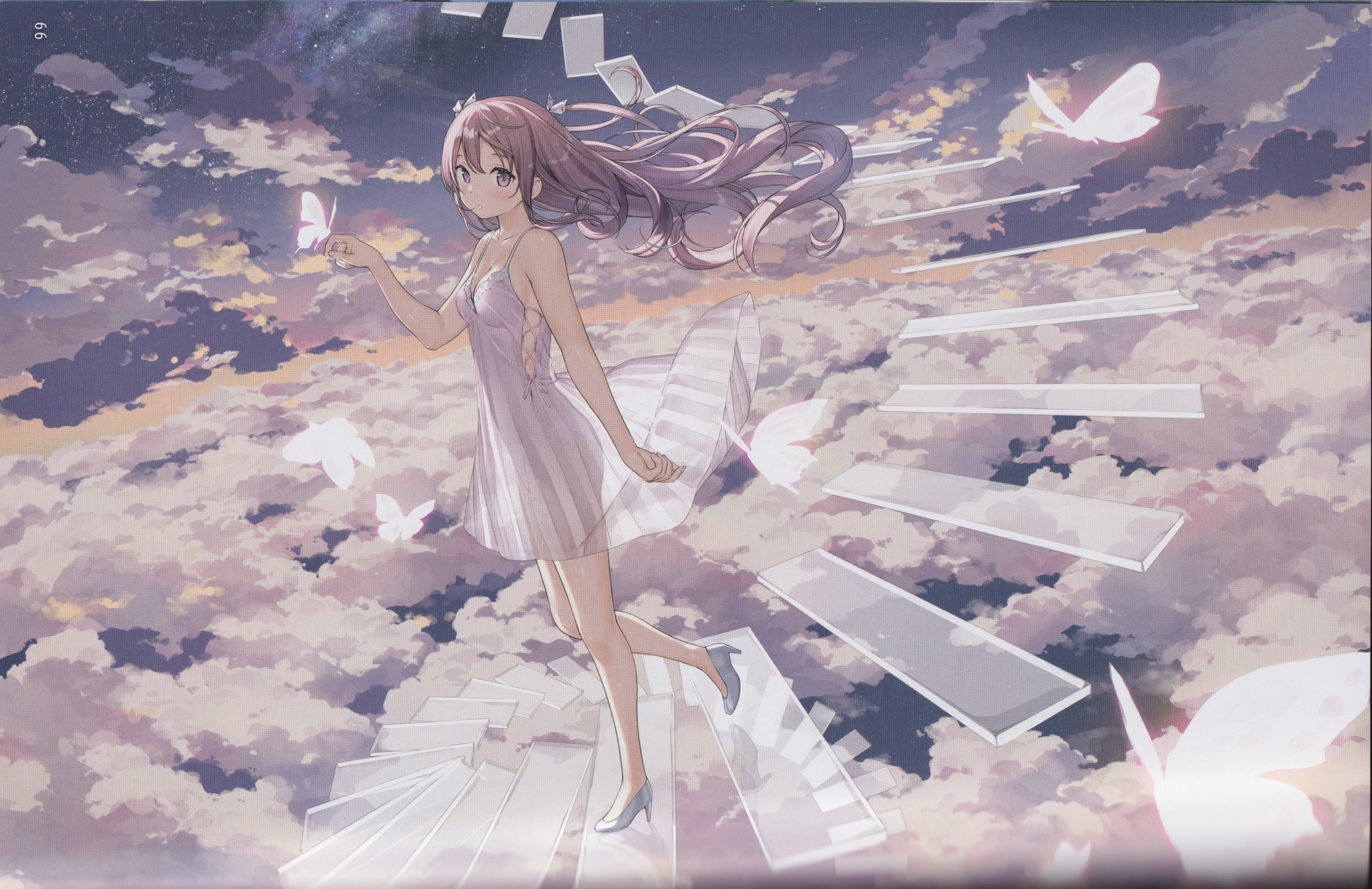

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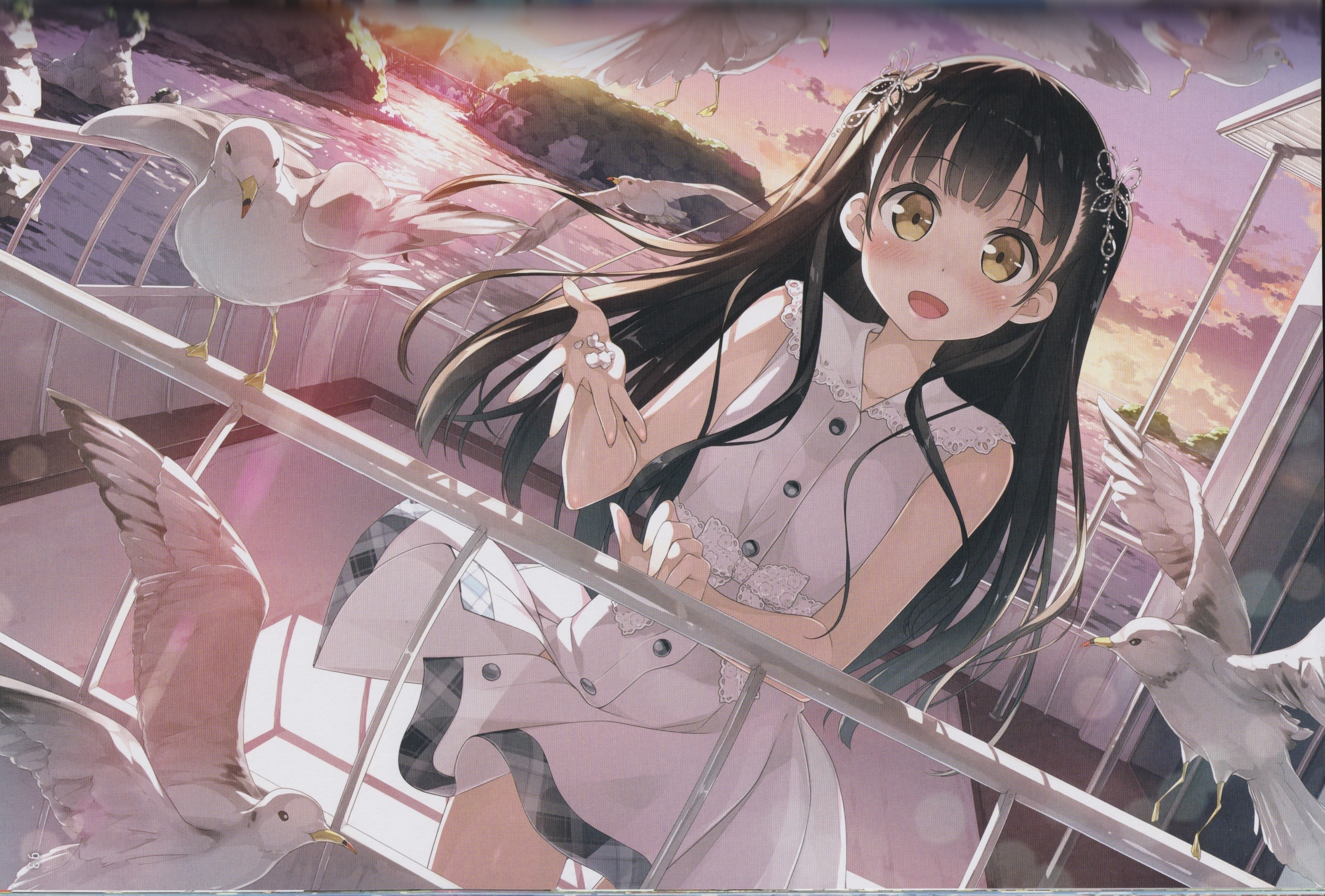

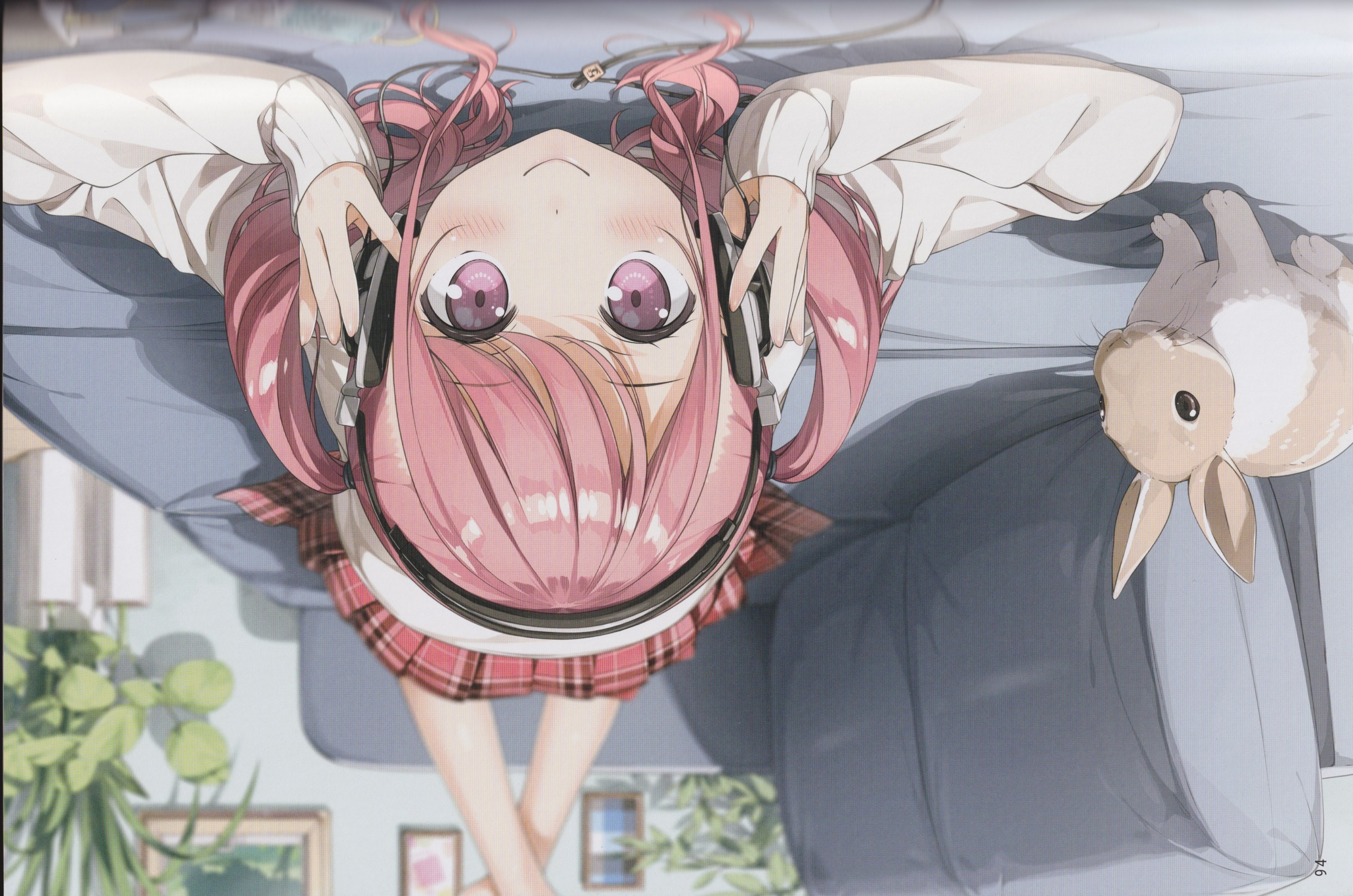

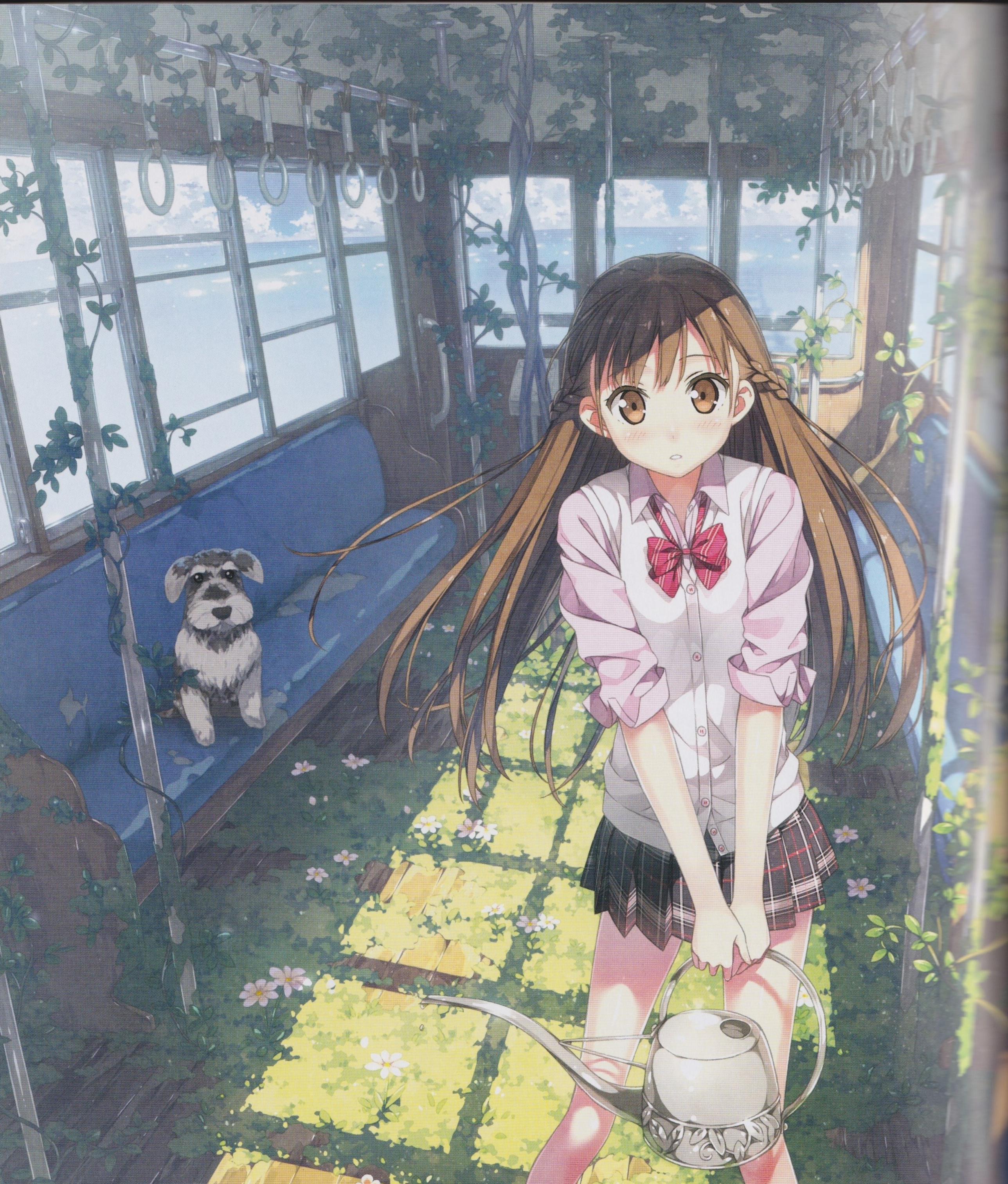

Sunday
Pool

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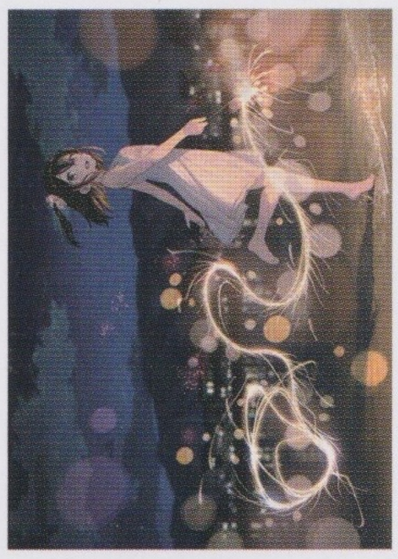

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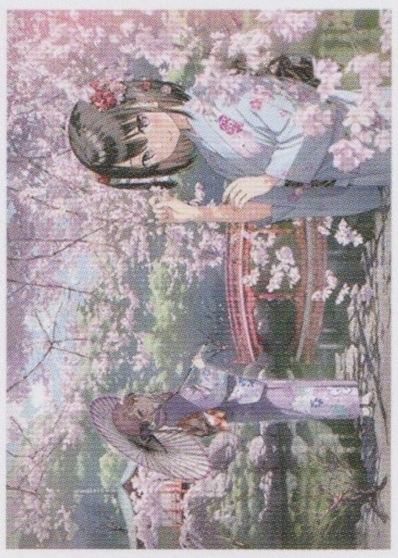

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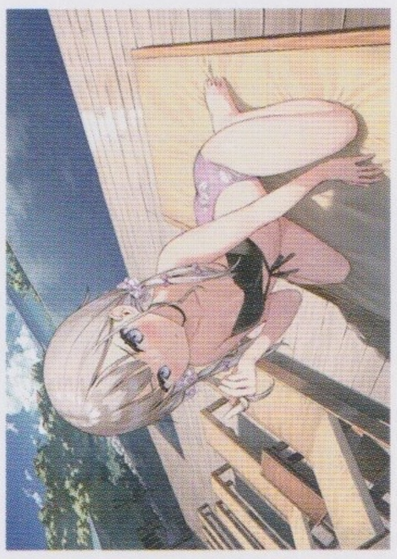

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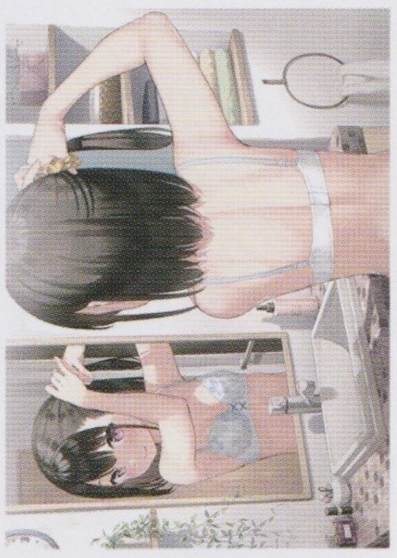

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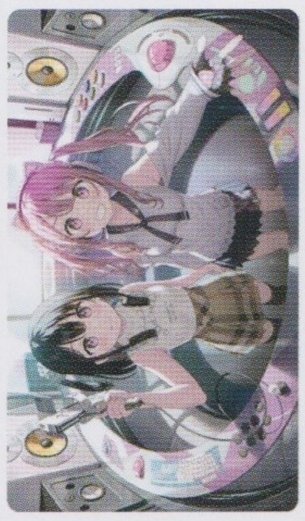

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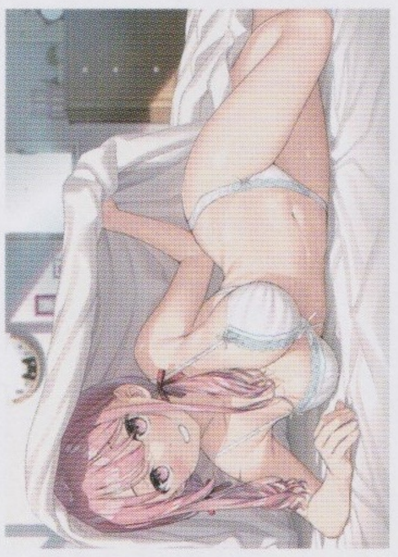

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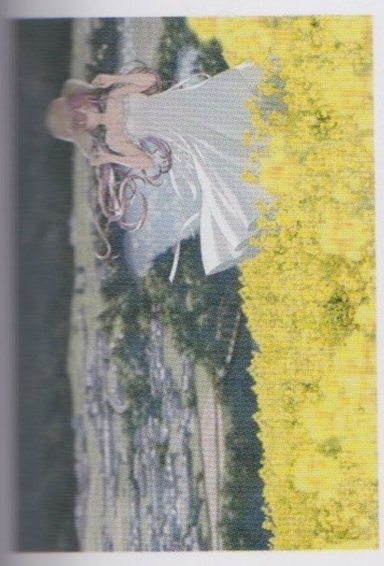

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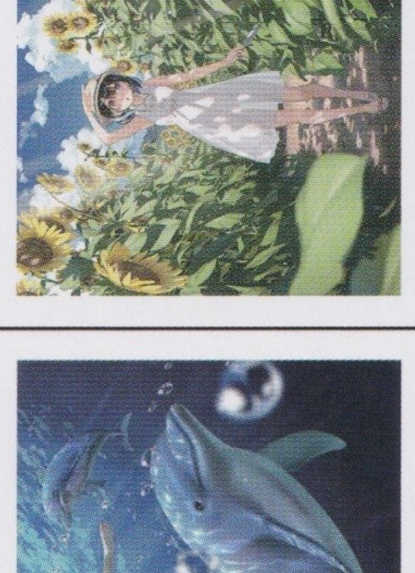

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INTERVIEW with KANTOKU

Thank you for interviewing with us again! You've published several new compilations of your artwork in Japan since the English-language release of *The Art of Kantoku*. How do you decide when you have enough artwork to publish a book?

I'm always happy when a publisher reaches out to me, as long as I'm not publishing books back to back. So long as there isn't too much overlap between the themes and illustrations inside, I want to publish as many books as I can! I think it's great when people have a lot of options.

From your early work to today, what's changed the most about how you approach creating new illustrations?

For better or for worse, my final illustrations look more like how I originally envision them now. Changing directions while you're drawing can be great, since you can create imagery you would have never imagined otherwise, but I haven't been doing this much lately. Maybe I've adopted a risk-free work ethos... or maybe I'm placing more importance on originally envisioning something good.

In *The Art of Kantoku*, you mentioned your art being inspired by certain real-world brands of lingerie and school uniform designs. Are there any new clothing designs you've recently taken interest in?

Fashion changes with the times, but I don't think what I draw necessarily has to change the same way. Though of course, if there are new trends I think are cute, I want to draw them. Oversized collars and bare shoulders have recently taken off in Japanese fashion, and I think those are cute.

With travel to Japan becoming easier post-COVID, are there any locations that inspire your artwork you would recommend your fans to visit?

The Nabana no Sato Illumination and Kasai Rinkai Park are a lot of fun, and very beautiful.

How are your cats Haku and Bell doing?

They're doing great. They're very friendly, so whenever I have guests they get very cuddly and cover everyone with cat hair.

Any final words for your fans around the world until your next international release?

The world is changing, and the people in it are changing too... but I believe the pleasure of creating art and looking at it will never change. I'm going to put my all into creating art that people will love for a long time, and I hope you'll be there to see it.

THE ART OF KANTOKU
ILLUSTRATION COLLECTION II

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